

SR 26 over Salamonie River
Bridge Replacement Project
Portland, Jay County, Indiana
Des. No. 1600828

Public Hearing

Indiana Department of Transportation, Greenfield District

Thursday, November 18, 2021

6:30 PM ET

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose and format of public hearing
- Environmental Document and Historic Bridge Project Development Process
- Project Alternatives
- Description of Preferred Alternative
- Remaining project schedule
- Formal public comment session
- Adjourn
- Post-meeting informal Q&A

Project Team

- **INDOT Greenfield District**
 - JoAnn Wooldridge, Program Manager
 - Jeremy Greene, Project Manager
- **USI Consultants, Inc.**
 - John Handke, Project Manager
 - Ben Beer, Vice President
- **SJCA, Inc.**
 - Erin Mulryan, Environmental
- **Federal Highway Administration**
 - Robert Dirks, Planning and Environmental Specialist



Project Stakeholders

- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana Division Federal Highway Administration
- Jay County
- City of Portland
- Elected & Local officials
- Residents & citizens
- Commuters
- Businesses
- Emergency services
- Schools
- Churches
- Community Organizations
- Section 106 Consulting Parties



Purpose of Hearing and Format

- Requirement of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Historic Bridge Programmatic Agreement (HBPA)
- Provides opportunity for public to understand the project and submit comments to be considered in the design and development of the project
- Comments addressed in the Environmental Document
- Formal presentation
 - Project design information
 - Formal public comment session for the audience to come forward
- Opportunity for informal meeting and Q&A afterwards (off-the-record)

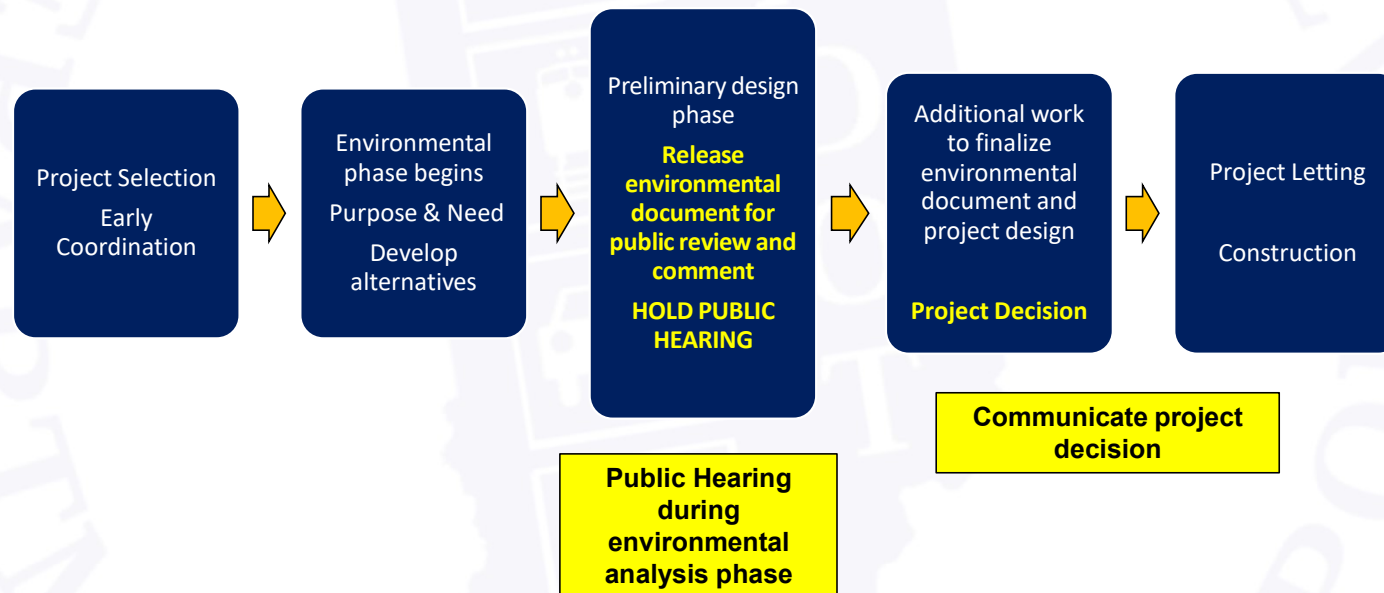
Public Comment

- Verbal:
 - Audience members may come forward with questions or comments at this meeting
 - Sign-in sheet required for participants
 - Comments will be recorded and transcribed
- Written:
 - Comment form included in the Project Information Packet
 - Found online at (<https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-39818/>)
 - At the sign-in table
 - May be emailed (acknowledgement receipt will be provided)
 - May be sent via US Mail
 - May be dropped in the comment box at the end of this meeting
- All comments must be received by **12/3/21** to become part of the public record, be entered into the transcript, reviewed, evaluated, and given full consideration in the decision-making process

Notice of Public Hearing

- Legal notice of public hearing published in the Indianapolis Star and the Commercial Review newspapers on 11/3/21 and 11/10/21.
- A notice of the public hearing was mailed to known property owners within project area and project stakeholders on 10/26/21.
- Announcement of this hearing was posted to INDOT website (www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-greenfield-district/sr-26-over-Salamonie-river-bridge-replacement). A media release was also issued.
- A copy of presentation and project documentation are available for review on-line via INDOT website (www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-greenfield-district/sr-26-over-Salamonie-river-bridge-replacement).

Project Development



NEPA Process

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**
 - Requires INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of a proposed project to the natural and socio-economic environments
 - NEPA is a decision-making process
 - Purpose and Need
 - Alternatives Screening
 - Preferred Alternative
- **Impacts analyzed, evaluated, and described in an environmental document**
 - What are the impacts this project might have on the community?
 - How can impacts be avoided?
 - Can impacts be minimized?
 - Mitigation for impacts?
- **Draft environmental document (CE-4) released for public involvement on 7/20/21**

Environmental Document Evaluates Impact

- Right-of-way
- Streams, Wetlands, and Other Waters
- Floodplains
- Endangered Species
- Farmland
- Cultural Resources
(Historic/Archaeological)
- Parks and Recreational Lands (Trails)
- Residential development
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Community Impacts
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Permits
- Mitigation
- Public Involvement
- Commercial Development

Project Resource Locations

Project documents (hard copies) may be viewed at:

USI Consultants, Inc. Office

- Address: 8415 E 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46216
- Phone: (317)-544-4996
- Website: (<https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-39818/>)

Jay County Public Library

- Address: 315 N Ship St., Portland, IN 47371
- Phone: (260) 726-7890

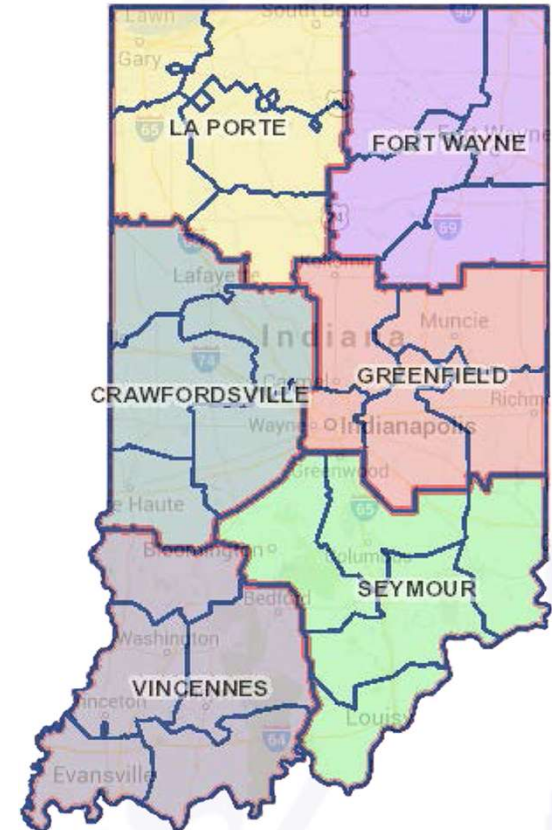
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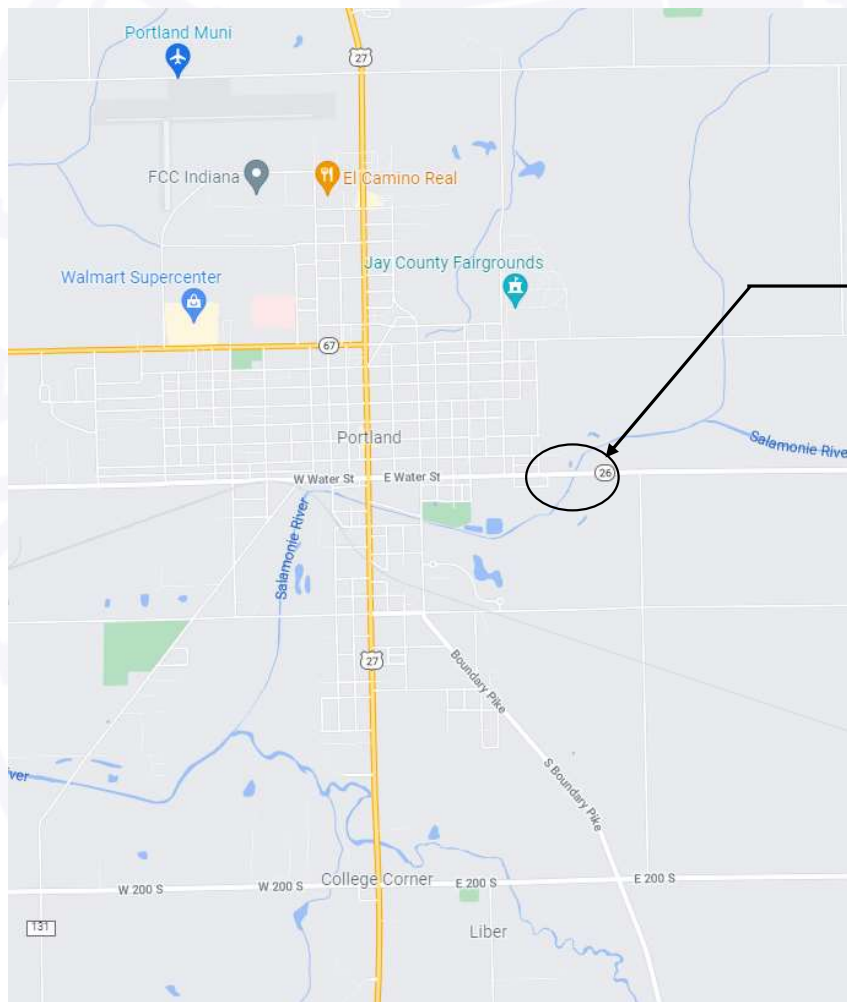
Transportation Services Call Center

Provides citizen and business customers with a single point-of-contact to request transportation services, obtain information, or provide feedback through multiple channels of communications.

855-463-6848 • INDOT4U.com • INDOT@indot.in.gov



Project Location Map



Project Location

SR 26 over Salamonie River
0.78 miles E of US 27
East edge of City of Portland

Historic Bridge Inventory

- Existing bridge (026-38-03430 A) is a 150 ft. single-span steel Pratt truss
- Bridge identified as historic Non-Select on Historic Bridge Inventory
 - Constructed in 1941, reconstructed in 1979
 - Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places due to distinctive characteristics that reflect an important phase in bridge construction
- Project development process for rehabilitation or replacement must follow Historic Bridge Programmatic Agreement
 - Any rehabilitation to comply with Secretary of Interior Standards
 - Non-Select status indicates the bridge is not as suitable for preservation or not considered an excellent example of a given type



Historic Bridge Alternatives Analysis

- Project development process for historic bridges must follow guidelines of historic bridge alternatives analysis
- Hierarchical evaluation process for do-nothing, rehabilitation, relocation, and replacement options
- Must choose the first alternative that meets purpose and need of the project



Purpose and Need of Project



Purpose and Need of Project

- **Need**

- Deterioration of existing structure – Deck, Superstructure, and Substructure are in fair condition
- Low load rating – 28 tons

- **Purpose**

- Restore crossing to satisfactory condition
- Increase roadway width to 30 ft.
- Increase carrying capacity to 36 tons
 - Commercial vehicles
 - Farm equipment
 - Emergency vehicles
- Upgrade bridge railing and guardrail to current standards



Alternatives Considered

- **Alt. A: Do Nothing**

- Alternative is used as a baseline for comparison for build alternatives
- No rehabilitation or new construction
- Bridge may last 3-5 more years without further weight restrictions and extensive repairs
- Does not meet project's purpose and need of project

- **Alt. B: Rehabilitation**

- Existing bridge repaired as necessary
- Continued two-way, two-lane vehicular traffic
- Maintains substandard width and bridge railing
- Cost of rehabilitation - \$962,300
- Cost of replacement - \$1,158,300
- Considered not prudent



Alternatives Considered

- **Alt. C: Rehabilitation and Construction of One-Way Bypass**

- Repair existing bridge (same as Alt. B) and use for one-lane of traffic
- Construct bypass bridge for one-lane use, opposite direction of traffic
- Maintains substandard width and bridge railing
- Cost of alternative - \$2,305,300
- Considered not prudent

- **Alt. D: Rehabilitation and Construction of Two-Way Bypass**

- Repair existing bridge for pedestrian use
- Construct bypass bridge for two-lane, two-way traffic
- Cost of alternative - \$1,358,000 (excluding historic bridge rehab costs)
- Only prudent if responsible party funds and takes ownership
- No responsible party has come forward

Alternatives Considered

- **Alt. E: Relocation**

- Dis-assemble, transport, and re-assemble at alternative location (typically for trail or ped use)
- Construct new bridge at project location
- Cost of alternative - \$1,158,300 (excludes rehabilitation and shipping costs)
- Only prudent if responsible party funds and takes ownership
- No responsible party has come forward

- **Alt. F: Replacement - Preferred Alternative**

- Demolish existing bridge
- Construct new bridge at project location
- Cost of alternative - \$1,158,300
- Meets purpose and meeting of project
- Only prudent alternative considered

Alternative Analysis costs were exclusively comparative and did not indicate preliminary estimation of total project costs.

Bridge Marketing

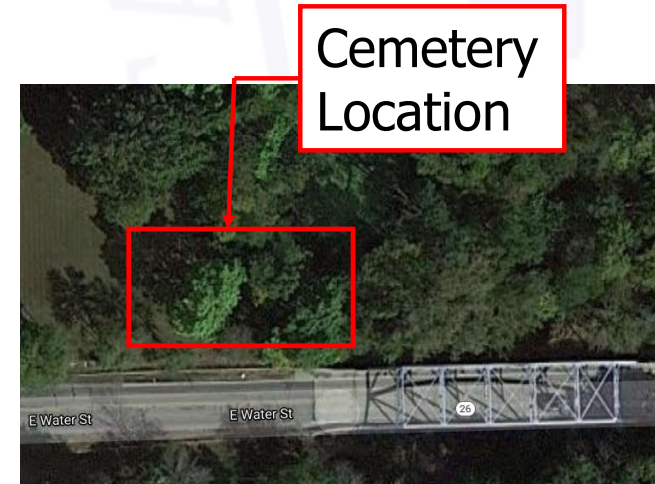
- Legal notice in local newspaper on 3/9/20
 - Indianapolis Star and Commercial Review
- Sign at both bridge approaches
- INDOT's Historic Bridge Marketing Website:
 - <https://www.in.gov/indot/current-programs/green-initiatives/historic-bridges-marketing-program/>
- SHPO requested photo documentation of the bridge, which was provided
 - Photographs of the bridge were submitted to SHPO, Indiana State Archives, Jay County Historical Society
- Hearing is the last opportunity for a responsible party to come forward and provide the necessary sureties to obtain ownership of the bridge
- To date, no interested, responsible party has stepped forward for re-use

Historic Bridge Project Development Process

- Seek Consulting Party comment
 - No comments in favor of rehabilitation have been received from consulting parties
 - State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is satisfied that replacement is the only feasible and prudent alternative remaining if no responsible party comes forward
- Market Bridge for Re-Use
 - Has been marketed for over 6 months
- Identify Preferred Alternative - Replacement
- Hold Public Hearing – 11/18/2021
- Environmental Document Approval
 - After hearing comment period ends

Other Historic Resources in Project Area

- Unmarked cemetery on property NW of bridge was investigated
 - Was not listed as eligible for the NRHP
- Project work will be limited to areas of previous disturbance to avoid impact to cemetery and historic resources
- No ROW acquisition in area of cemetery
- Revised cemetery development plan is being prepared



Proposed Project Summary

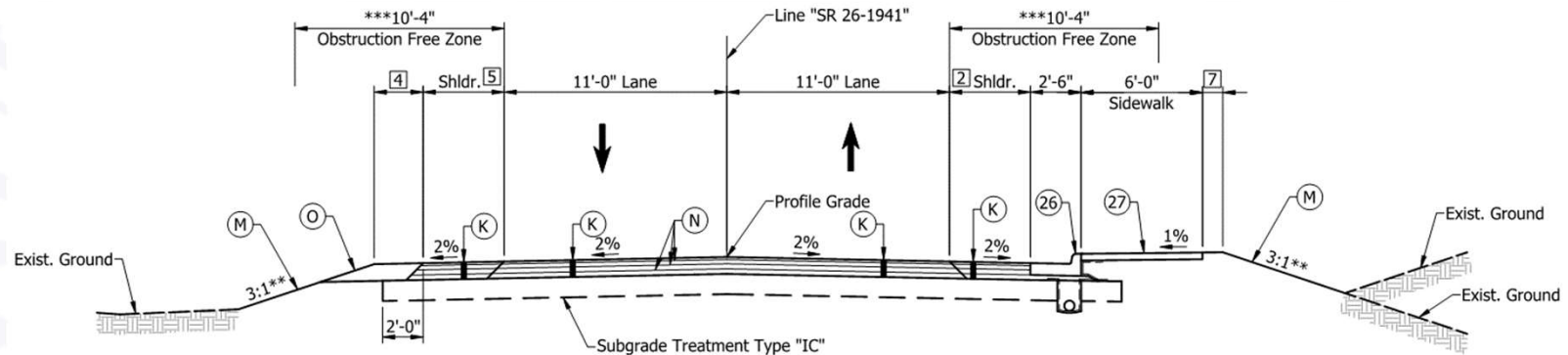
- Demolish existing bridge
- Construct new 210 ft. long, three-span bulb-tee girder bridge
- 75-year design life
- Upgrade existing bridge and guardrail
- 6 ft. wide sidewalk extension on south side to east side of bridge
- Storm sewer inlets for drainage
- Tree replanting in SE quad due to removal of existing trees
- 0.73 acres of right of way acquisition
- Construction Cost Estimate: \$2,570,000



Environmental Impacts

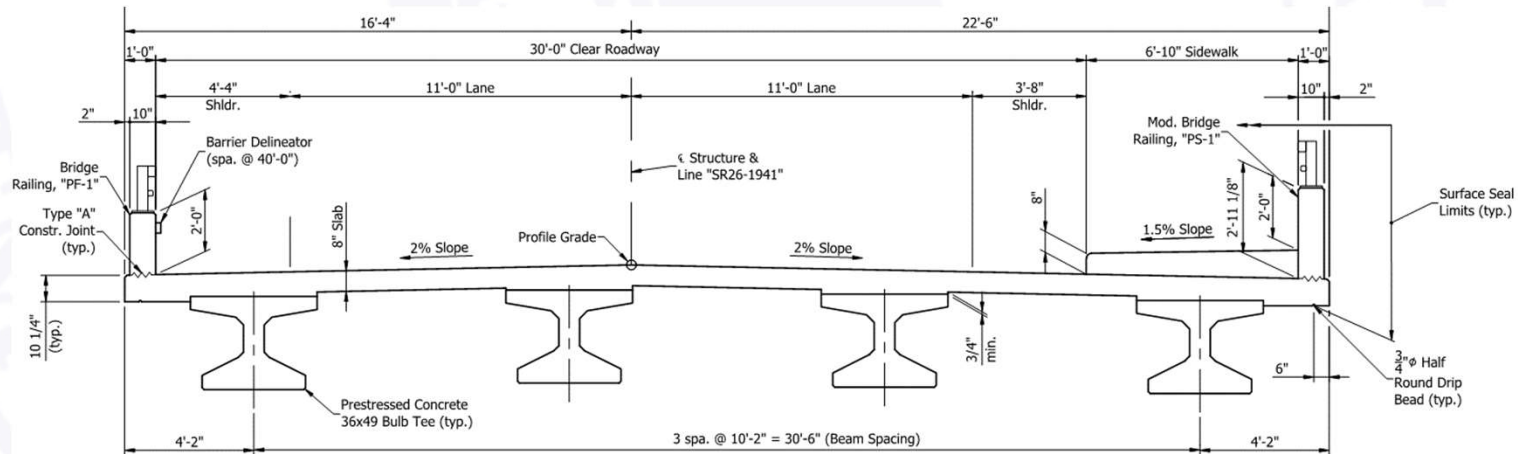
- Removal of existing historic Non-Select bridge
- 0.013 acres of wetland impacts
- 0.007 acres and 53 linear feet of stream impacts
- Removal of 0.12 acres of trees – Replaced and mitigated on-site according to IDNR guidelines
- No known impacts to bats, birds, or endangered species
- Avoids impact to cemetery in NW quad

Typical Sections



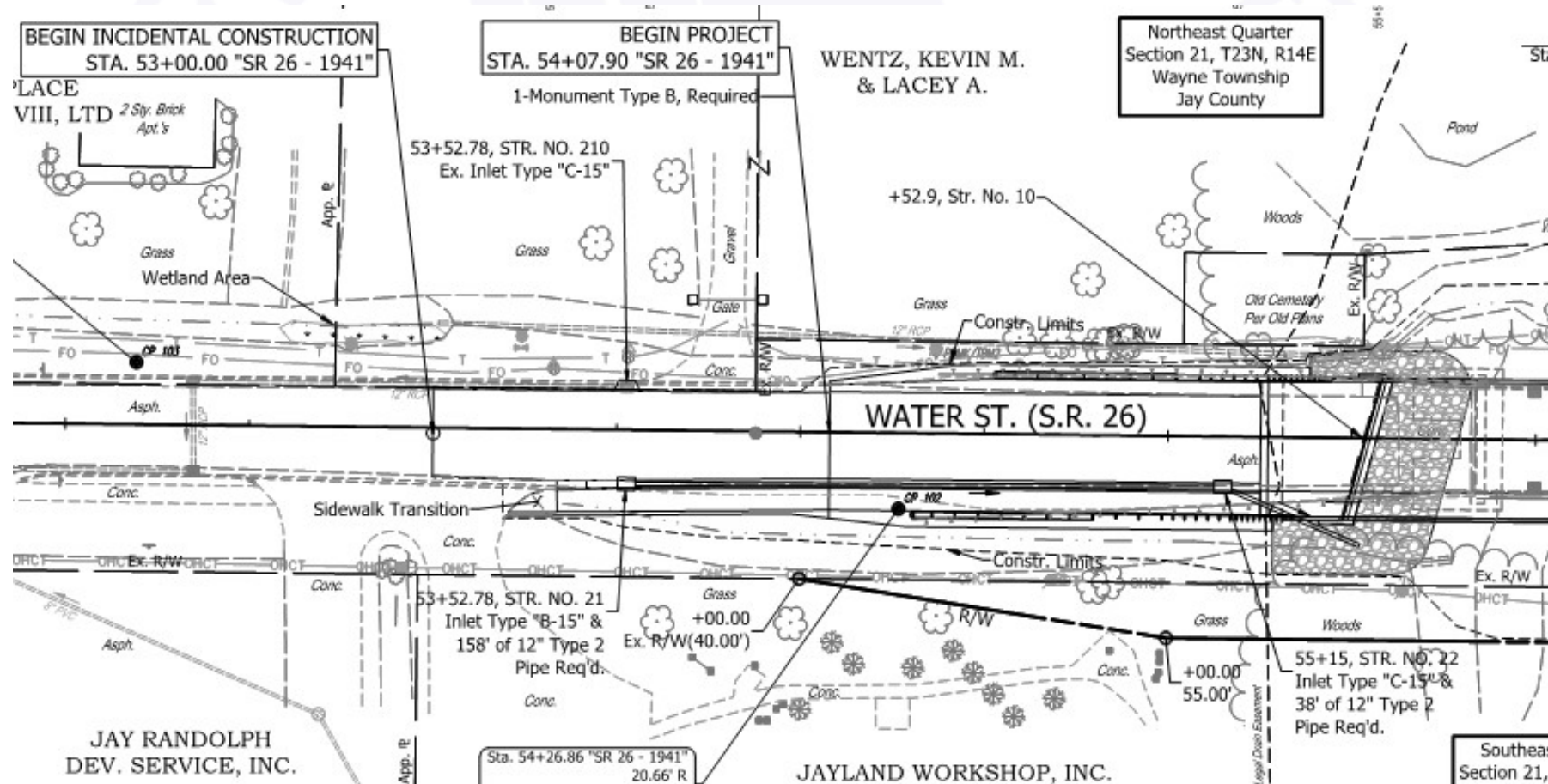
**Unless noted on the cross sections

TYPICAL SECTION

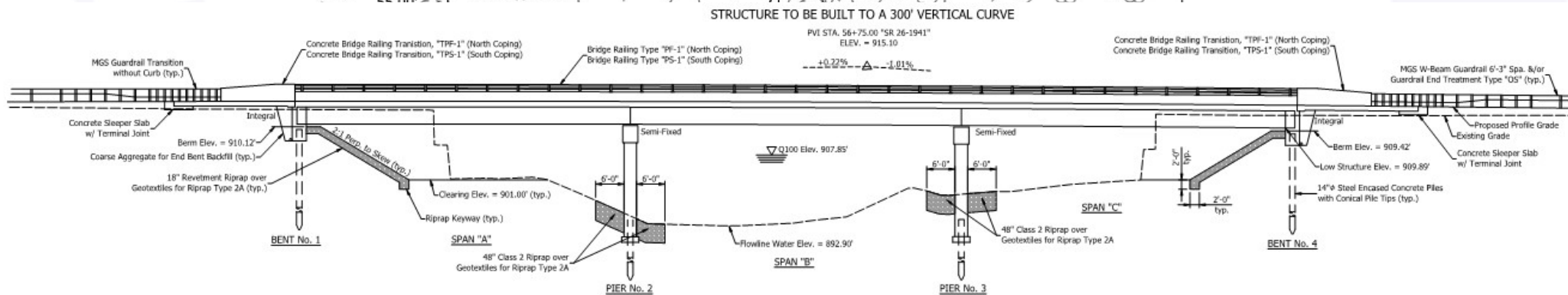


SR26 - TYPICAL BRIDGE SECTION

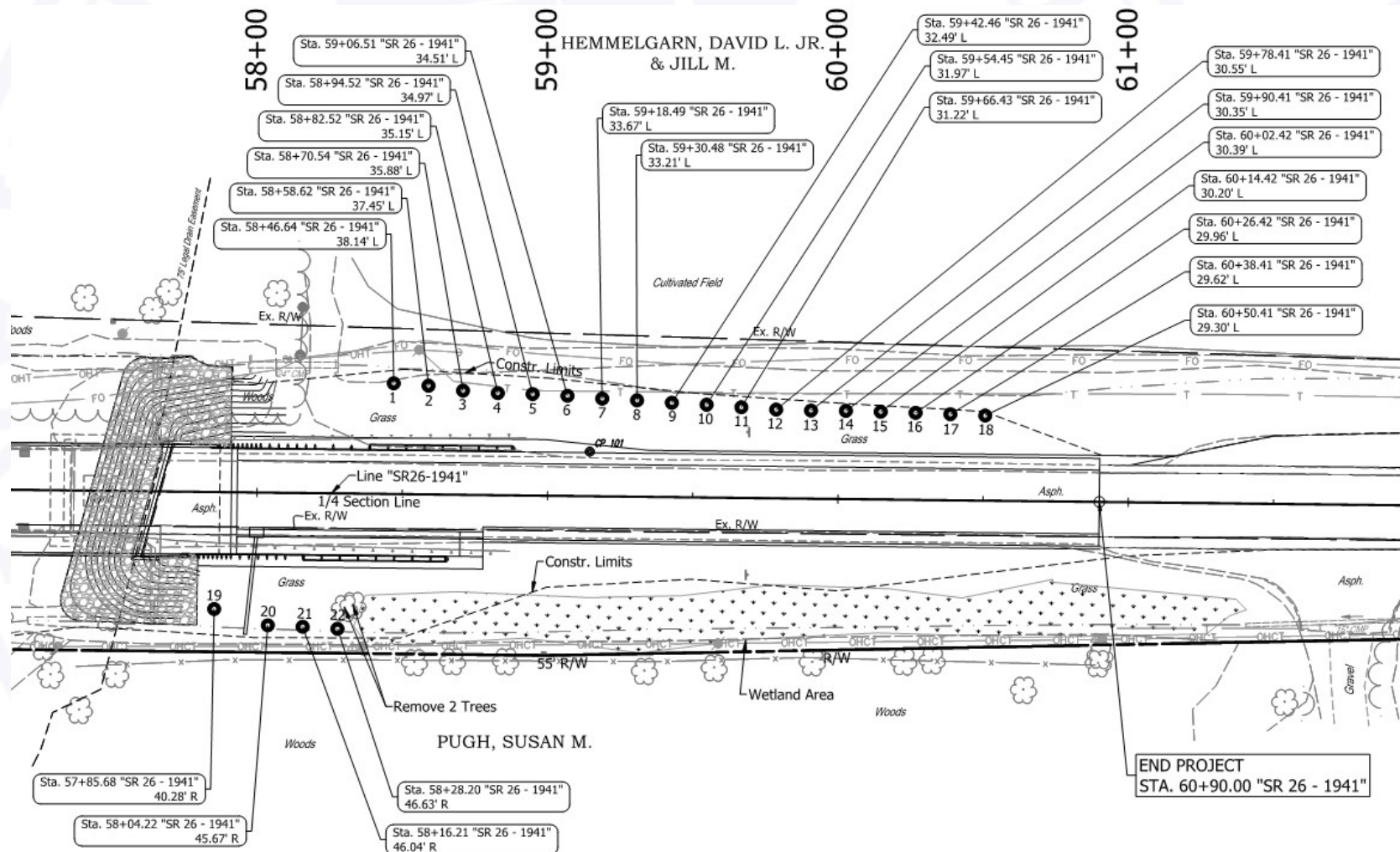
Proposed Improvements – West Approach



A detailed plan view of a waterway improvement project. The diagram shows a main channel with several structures across it, including three large bridges or culverts labeled "FO" and smaller ones labeled "OHT". There are also several smaller culverts labeled "C-15" and "C-16". The surrounding area includes "Woods", "Pond", "Old Cemetery Per Old Plans", and "Grass". Property boundaries are indicated by dashed lines and labels like "Ex. R/W". A north arrow points towards the top right. Stationing is shown along the bottom edge, with labels like "+00.00", "55+15, STR. NO. 22 Inlet Type 'C-15' & ", and "55' R/W". Other labels include "Asph.", "Conc.", "OHCT", and "x55' R/W".



Proposed Improvements – East Approach

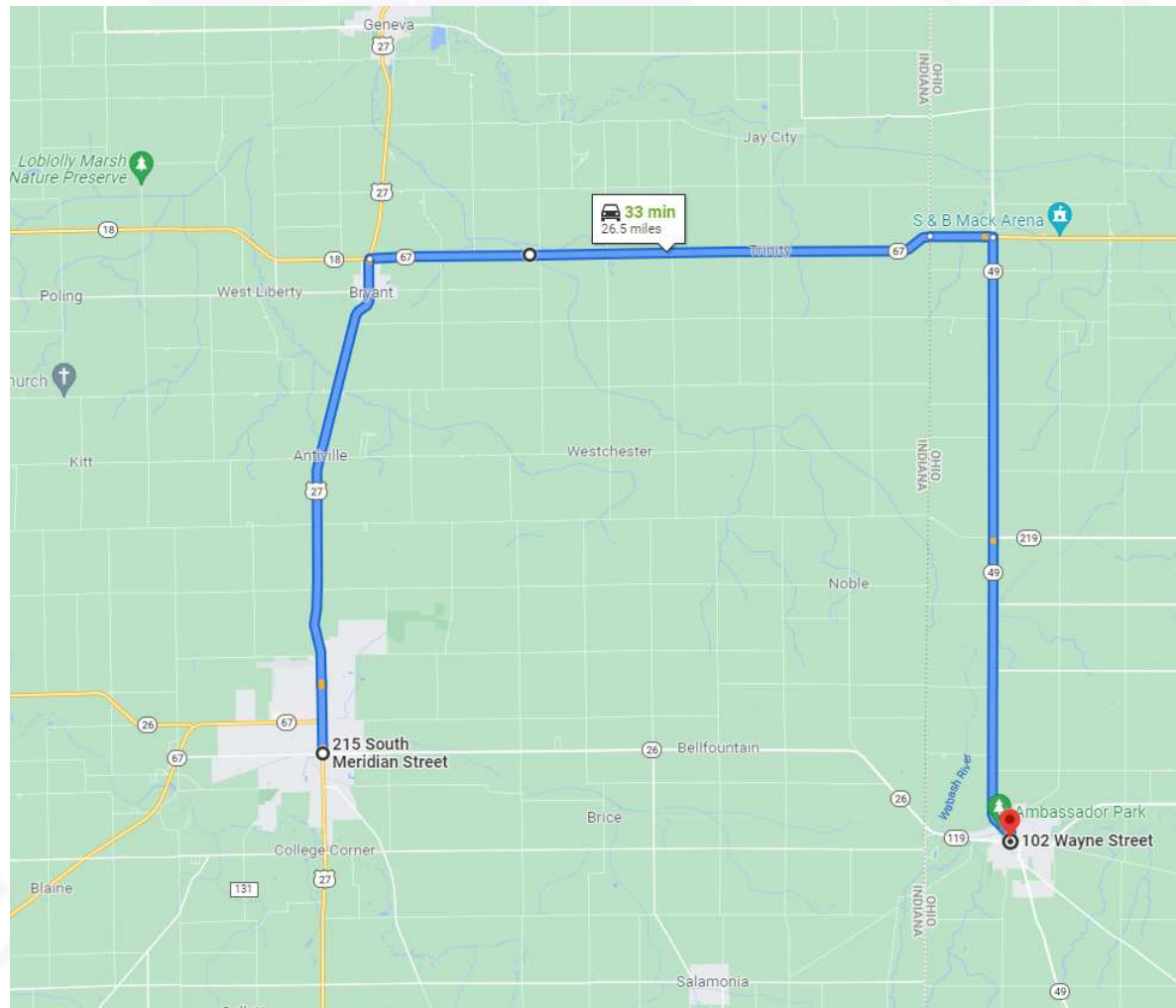


Maintenance of Traffic (MOT)

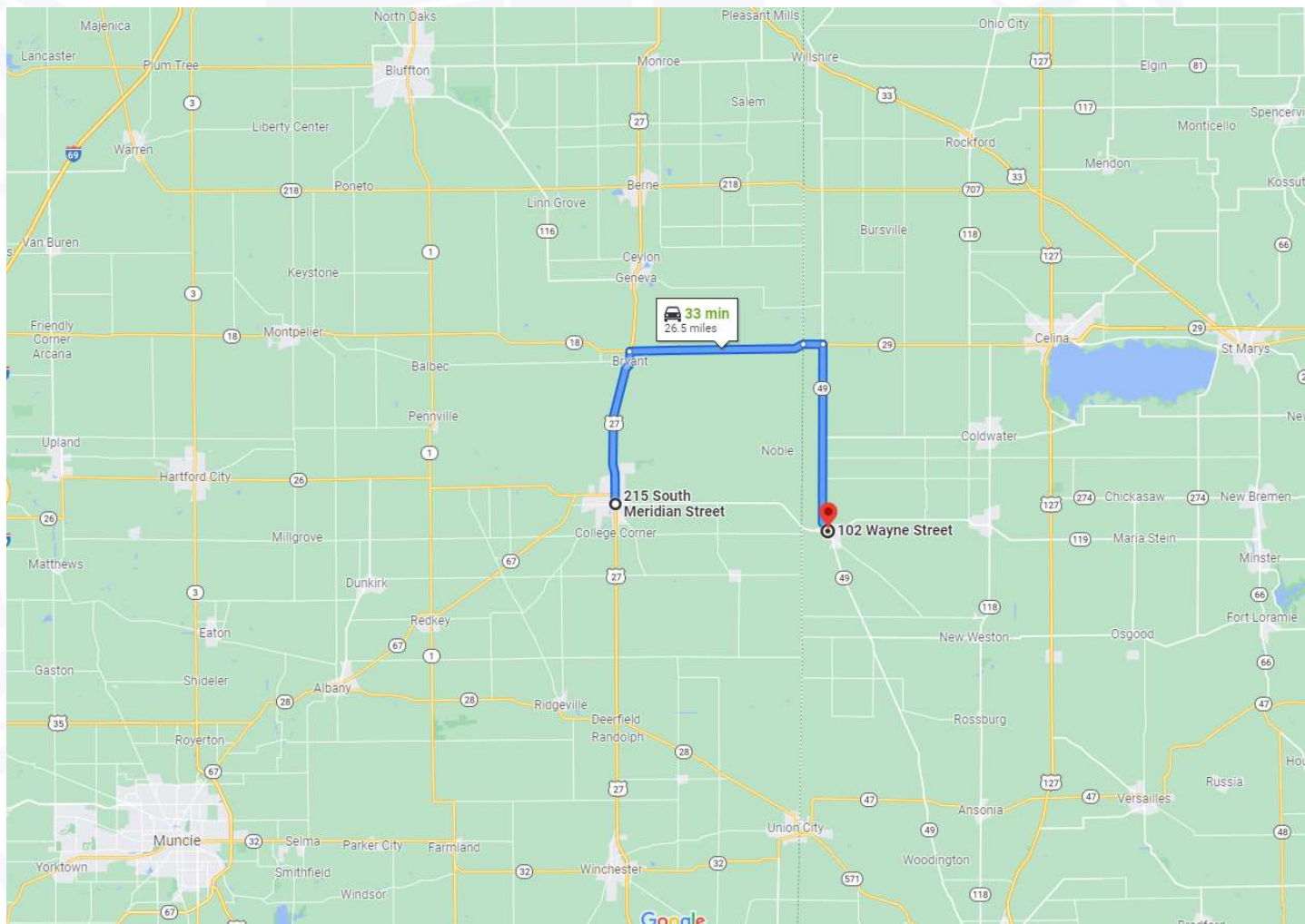
- Full road closure with traffic detour
 - US 27 (Portland) – Indiana SR 67 (Bryant) – Ohio SR 49 (Fort Recovery)
 - Official detour route to be posted on Indiana and Ohio routes
 - 26.5 mile detour – Adds 15.5 miles (20 minutes)
 - Adjacent roadways available for local traffic
 - Local access available for businesses and driveways up to project area
- Road closure for approx. 5 months
- Construction anticipated from Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
- INDOT to notify emergency services and school corporation officials prior to start of construction



Maintenance of Traffic (MOT)



Maintenance of Traffic (MOT)



Project Development Process and Schedule

- Environmental early coordination letters sent to consulting parties
- No objections to-date for chosen course of action
- Environmental document released for public involvement – 7/20/21
- Public Hearing – 11/18/21
- Finalize environmental document – Dec. 2021
 - Following the public hearing comment period, Section 106 process will conclude and Environmental Document will be finalized
- Finalize design – 2/18/22
- Project letting – 7/13/22
- Proposed construction – Fall 2022 through Spring 2023



Submit Public Comments

- Submit public comments using the options described in first page of information packet:
 - Public Comment Form (<https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-39818/>)
 - Via e-mail (jhandke@usiconsultants.com)
 - Participate during public comment session following formal presentation
- **INDOT requests written comments be submitted by (12/3/21) to:**
 - John Handke
 - USI Consultants, Inc.
 - 8615 E 56th St.
 - Indianapolis, IN 46216
- All comments submitted are included in the public hearings transcript and made part of the public record
- Comments are reviewed, evaluated and given full consideration during decision-making process

Next Steps

- **Public and project stakeholder input**
 - Submit comments via options described on page 1 of information packet
- **INDOT review of public comments**
 - All comments are given full consideration during decision-making process
 - Finalize/approve environmental document, complete project design
- **Communicate a decision**
 - INDOT will notify project stakeholders of decision
 - Work through local media, social media outlets, paid legal notice
 - Make project documents accessible via repositories
- **Questions? Contact Public Involvement Team**



Project Viewing Locations

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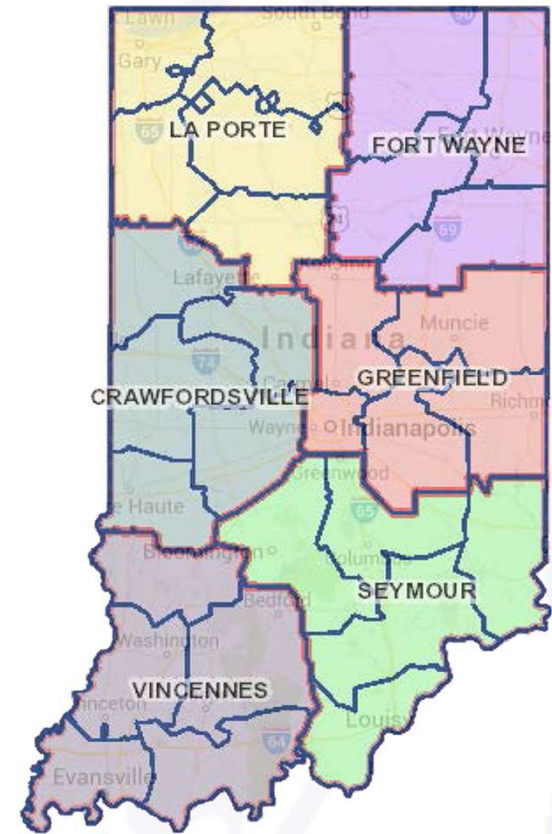
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Thank You

- Please visit with the INDOT design team and project officials following the presentation and comment session
- Add you contact info to the sign-in sheet to be added to the mailing list
- Those unable to attend in-person are encouraged to reach out to the following individuals for questions:
 - INDOT: Jeremy Greene, (317) 467-3472, jegreene@indot.in.gov
 - USI Consultants, Inc: John Handke (317) 649-2267, jhandke@usiconsultants.com
- Project Open House
 - Project maps, displays, INDOT project team and informal Q & A
 - INDOT Greenfield District webpage: <http://www.in.gov/indot>